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Title : Requests the Government to launch a protest to the reported statement by US Secretary of Defence on Internationalising the Kashmir issue.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (KARAD) : Sir, *i* want to raise a matter relating to the reported stateÂment by Mr. William Cohen. US Secretary of Defence after the Geneva P-5 Conference. He has reportedly said : 'US will insist on internationalising the Kashmir issue.' It is a serious development. It sets back our fifty years of successful effort in keeping the Kashmir issue out of the international agenda. Also. Ms. Madeleine Albright has reportedly said :

.. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (MAHASUMUND): No, Hon'ble Member can read out from a newspaper or any newsitem.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He can refer to it.

*(Interruptions'**

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : I would Ifke to draw your attention under rule 349.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is only referring to the report and not reading it out. He can refer to it.

SHRI PRiTHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : You should try to understand what I am saying. I have not said that I am quoting.

There is a reported statement of Ms. Madeleine Albright. She has said that the new set of leaders have tarnished India's glorious image. It is a direct attempt to break the foreign policy consensus arrived over the last fifty years and divide Indian political parties.

We deplore it. I would request the Government to launch a protest with the US Government. We welcome the Prime Minister's statement that India is witling to talk to Pakistan on Kashmir. We must not allow the western conspiracy to internationalise the Kashmir issue to succeed. I would request the Prime Minister to take initiative in order to take all the political parties into confidence to rebuild the national foreign policy consciousness to handle the political and economic fallout of Pokhran.

Finally, the Government must give a. statement on the P-5 communique that has denied nuclear weapons status to India.